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DATE: February 18, 2010

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA 300-10-13

SUBJECT: LTP- FY 2010 EQIP Statewide CRP Special Initiative

Purpose: To forward the requirements and documents needed to implement the FY 2010 EQIP statewide CRP special initiative.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2010

ACTION REQUIRED BY:

March 5, 2010 - All ranking and estimated costs entered in ProTracts

March 12, 2010 - Applications selected for funding

April 1, 2010 - All contracts obligated in ProTracts

Washington State is offering technical and financial assistance under the FY 2010 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to producers who have land that expired from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on September 30, 2009, or will expire from CRP on September 30, 2010. Please note that although EQIP policy allows land under an active CRP contract to be enrolled under an EQIP contract during the last year of the CRP contract, no EQIP practices may be implemented on the CRP acres until after the CRP contract has expired. Refer to CPM 515.52F(2).

Attached are the application questionnaire, ranking criteria, eligible practices list, and payment schedule that will be used to implement the CRP special initiative. The ranking tool has been entered and released in ProTracts, and the payment schedule has been uploaded for use in ProTracts and Customer Service Toolkit.

The basic steps for implementation of the initiative are as follows:

1. Fund Pools - The following fund pools have been created in Protracts: Grazing < 12" precip; Grazing 12" or higher; Cropland < 12" precip; Cropland 12" or higher; Multi-Use < 12" precip (combination of Grazing Land and Cropland); and Multi-Use 12" or higher precip. Each field office that received applications for the CRP special initiative must select one of the above listed fund pools for each application entered in ProTracts.

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2. Funds will initially be distributed equally to each of the six fund pools. Funds will be reallocated between fund pools once all applications in a pool are selected, or funding is not sufficient to fund the next application. Fund allocations and reallocations will be managed at the state level.
3. All applications will be ranked and estimated costs entered in ProTracts by March 5, 2010.
4. Application selection for funding (pre-approval) will be completed by the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs (ASTC-P), and the District Conservationists notified by March 12, 2010.
5. Contracts must be obligated by the Area Conservationist by April 1, 2010.

Area offices will provide details to their respective field offices regarding the process for contract document submittal for quality review, second level review and obligation.

If you have any questions on this process, please contact your local Program Liaison or Jeff Harlow, ASTC-P, at (509) 323-2971.

/s/ Paul Scales, Acting

ROYLENE RIDES AT THE DOOR
State Conservationist

Attachments (3)